

Debbie Robbins
The Lincoln Club of Kentucky
1479 Sable Wing Circle Louisville, KY 40223
(502) 254-7856 voice (502) 253-9104 fax sdrobky@aol.com

November 18, 2002

Attn: Ms. Jennifer Hans, Staff Attorney
Kentucky Registry of Election Finance
140 Walnut Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Ms. Hans,

This letter is response to the initial letter regarding the stipulation that we need to return a "corporate check" to Woodmere China, New Castle, PA. that came after this year's February 8, 2002, event. After our Treasurer, Carolyn Cole, received a letter stating that we must return the check, she asked for an advisory opinion in hopes that we may be able to resolve this issue without losing the funds. Since I am the only one who dealt with the Woodmere China Company, I am hoping this letter will serve better to explain that the check *is in no way* serves as a donation to our particular organization to support its cause (i.e. PAC), but instead, it is the percentage of proceeds that we received in regards to making available for sale their beautiful Presidential China Collection to those who attended our event. Our only goal with selling this item was to get extra dollars to help us with expenses such as postage stamps and printing costs. Most organizations sell T-shirts, Caps, and Mugs, but we wanted to make available something that is collectible and different.

As I stated to you and to Mr. Baker (different conversations) over the phone, this year has been has first year to serve as volunteer for the annual Lincoln Day Dinner for Jefferson County and in helping out for political events in general. To say that is has been a learning experience is an understatement! I am very new and very green as a volunteer in learning the campaign finance laws and in no way tried to attempt to ignore or break any rules. There are only three volunteers that make this annual dinner happen. **Below are bullet points that will explain the circumstances:**

☐ I became involved as a volunteer in the summer of 2001 to plan for the February 8, 2002 Dinner. The Lincoln Club of Kentucky became a PAC sometime in the last 3-4 years. My *limited understanding* of PACS is that they are formed to support individual candidates(?). And to my limited knowledge, (I am not the Treasurer), since the forming of this PAC, there has not been any money disbursed to individual candidates. We exist to mainly to keep up the tradition of hosting an annual dinner.

☐ I am a personal collector of the Woodmere China Collection and thought this may be a neat and different item to provide for sale instead of the traditional T-shirts, Mugs, and Caps. After reading the blurb in the campaign finance book and after reading the example mentioning that mugs, caps, and t-shirts could be sold, It appeared that any other product would fall into that category as well.

☐ Woodmere China makes their China available to sell for not-for-profit, civic, and political groups all over the country. The percentage earned from sales is a standard 15%.

☐ I, Deborah J. Robbins, handled all of the transactions with the company, bought the samples with my own Credit Card, and took care of all of the details for making it available.

☐ This item is way too expensive for an individual like me to pre-pay for thousands of dollars of inventory to make available for "cash and carry" at an event. The China is only available at select museums and specialty shops across the country. The company also has a policy that "fills orders as they come in". They do not carry overstock.

☐ The way the company sets it up is that people fill out order forms to place orders. They can give cash, checks, or VISA/MASTERCARD for payment. I sent these orders to the company. This way they have an individual relationship with the customer in case of product damage, etc. After all orders are processed, we receive 15% of the sales.

☐ So, instead of us receiving the discount on the front end, we get it on the back end of the sale.

☐ Generally speaking, most of the time groups may be able to buy low end priced products (mugs, t-shirts, and caps) in bulk quantities to sell. But, over all, Woodmere China does not have that policy. However, I am sure that some of their museum shops that buy from them can afford to buy thousands of dollars of product, but groups like us who are trying to earn extra dollars for stamps and invitation printing cannot do that. We cannot afford to be stuck with this product.

☐ The set-up for the accounting system has me as the contact or sales person our "Company" is the Lincoln Club. They do this with all groups across the country. Hence, that is the reason we received a corporate check.

Lastly, we would appreciate *any viable option* you would be able to give us to help us keep these funds. On a personal note, I worked very hard to insure that we would be able to have extra dollars just in order to have our annual event. You can see from our records that we do not have much available cash on hand and just to host an event these days is costly. Thank you too Ms. Hans for informing me that a future option for the club would be to look into dissolving the PAC (but reserving the right to give money to candidates in the future). The rules are very confusing to volunteers like myself who just want to help make an event a success. My only goal while I am involved is to see that we can have an annual, traditional, and enjoyable Lincoln Day Dinner without spending money from my or anyone else's pocket to make it happen.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Debbie Robbins

Vice President (Program Chairman)
The Lincoln Club of Kentucky